

# CIA Ends Use of Reporters

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The Central Intelligence Agency, in response to growing congressional and news media pressure, announced yesterday it would no longer employ any full or part-time reporters accredited to U.S. news gathering organizations.

"As soon as feasible," a statement from the agency said, CIA will end "existing relationships" and "effective immediately" it would not enter into any new ones.

At the same time, the agency announced it "has no secret paid or contractual relationships with any American clergymen or missionaries, a practice that would now be continued "as a matter of policy."

Though ending the old policy the agency statement declared "CIA will not make public, now or in the future, the names of any cooperating journalists or churchmen."

The decision to halt the use of all journalists thus appears to be tied to growing demands from the news media and Congress for the names of those who worked for CIA in the past.

Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-Ky), chairman of the Senate intelligence subcommittee looking into CIA use of reporters Tuesday said he would seek those names from CIA Director George Bush at a meeting set for next week. It was not clear last night whether the agency's new ban on journalists would end the Senate committee's pursuit of names.

In testimony before the House intelligence committee last November, then CIA Director William Colby stated the agency had some 30 part-time reporters on its payroll.

Prior to 1974, the agency had also used full-time journalists on major news organizations as agents — a practice Colby said he ended in 1973 because it creates the appearance he was trying to manipulate news coverage in the U.S.

Colby maintained, however, that the part-time American journalist-agents who remained on the payroll were used to gather intelligence and contact people otherwise unavailable for approach by U.S. citizens.

Last November Colby said he would not halt the practice of hiring stringers, and would not disclose to their American editors the names of their stringers overseas who also worked for CIA.

In recent weeks, however, pressure has grown against that policy, culminating in the House intelligence committee recommendation Monday calling for a prohibition against agency use of journalists and churchmen. The Senate intelligence committee was looking toward taking a similar position.

Yesterday's action was not unexpected. Last week a CIA official had predicted it, saying a re-evaluation was being made with CIA officials finding press opposition to the practice was making it a less valuable intelligence tool.

When CIA Director Bush visited executives of The New York Times and CBS last week, he found them unanimously opposed to the policy.

In its statement, CIA said it was taking the step because it "recognizes the special status afforded these institutions under the Constitution."